

NEWS RELEASE

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE, DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Carol A. Murray, Commissioner

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IN-DEPTH INSPECTION TO BEGIN ON MEMORIAL BRIDGE IN PORTSMOUTH
SIX WEEK EXAMINATION WILL LOOK BOTH ABOVE AND BELOW WATER

The New Hampshire Department of Transportation announces an in-depth inspection of the Memorial Bridge carrying US Route 1 over the Piscataqua River in Portsmouth is scheduled to begin the week of September 1, 2003.

The six-week examination of the 82-year old lift bridge will include structural, mechanical, electrical and underwater inspections.

The bridge inspection work is expected to have minimal impact on vehicle traffic crossing the bridge. It will require one to two days of alternating one-way traffic on the nearby Scott Avenue Bridge. The inspection activity will also be coordinated to accommodate the lift bridge operations and marine traffic in the river.

The inspection findings will be used in developing rehabilitation or replacement options for Memorial Bridge and Scott Avenue Bridge. The States of New Hampshire and Maine each have 50 % ownership of Memorial Bridge and would share equally the costs of rehabilitating or replacing the bridge through the Federal Highway Bridge Program. The City of Portsmouth would be responsible for 20 % of the costs of replacing Scott Avenue Bridge, with the State of New Hampshire providing 80 % with Federal funds.

HNTB Corporation, of Boston, Massachusetts is the contractor for the \$672,000 bridge inspection project.